

---

# PROGRAM— AQUATICS



## Section PA

# STANDARDS FOR CAMP ACCREDITATION

---

---

---

Many camps offer aquatic activities as a major program element for campers. Swimming and boating activities take place in and on pools, ponds, lakes, rivers, oceanfronts, and creeks. Safety is a central concern in all aquatic activities. Accordingly, the Aquatics standards set high expectations for trained and certified supervision, appropriate safety precautions, and well-planned emergency procedures.

## APPLICABILITY

The Aquatic standards are to be applied to all instructional and recreational aquatic activities, including, but not limited to, swimming, boating, waterskiing, sailboarding, SCUBA diving, rafting, waterpark activities, tubing, diving, and synchronized swimming.

The Aquatic standards may not be applicable to activities conducted near bodies of water or in shallow water, if the water depth or conditions are such that a person in the water (intentionally or unintentionally) could be helped by someone trained in elementary, nonswimming forms of rescue. However, if lifeguarding precautions may be required due to water depth or conditions (such as the water current or temperature), the Aquatic standards apply. For example, fishing activities that take place from a pier with no protective railing may require a guard if the water is more than a few feet deep. Likewise, fishing activities at the edge of a gently sloping pond may be supervised by noncertified personnel with appropriate training.

The Aquatic Standards are applicable to:

- Standards PA-1 through PA-29 both in and away from camp, as such:
  - ✓ In camp: facilities and aquatic programs under the supervision of either camp staff or user-group personnel.
  - ✓ Away from camp: aquatic activities occurring away from the camp when camp staff are responsible for supervision of the activity.
- A camp that uses only staffed public facilities or providers for aquatic activities must score Standards PA-30 through PA-36.
- A camp that has aquatic activities in camp *AND* uses staffed public facilities or providers for some activities must score Standards PA-1 through PA-36.
- Aquatic activities occurring as part of trip or travel programs (three nights or more) are scored under the Trip and Travel standards.

The use of commercial vessels operated by licensed personnel, such as ferries and fishing boats for hire, need *NOT* be scored under the aquatic standards. However, even when the Aquatics standards are not scored, administrators should consider the requirements of the standards when selecting activities and locations.

---

## OVERALL AQUATICS MANAGEMENT

The provisions in this subsection of the Program Aquatics standards apply to all aquatic activities, including swimming and watercraft activities, staffed by the camp *AND* by user groups. On the other hand, Standards PA-1 through PA-29 *DO NOT APPLY* to camps that use *ONLY* staffed public facilities and *NEVER* conduct aquatic activities of their own or provide aquatic facilities for user groups.



## PA-1 AQUATICS SUPERVISOR QUALIFICATIONS

To provide overall supervision to the aquatic facility, staff, and program operation of each aquatic area, does the camp provide a staff member who meets the following qualifications:

PA-1A: Certification — holds or has evidence of having held one of the following certifications:

- Lifeguard training from a nationally recognized certifying body, or
- Swim Instructor certification from a nationally recognized certifying body, or
- Instructor or Instructor Trainer rating from a nationally recognized boating or watercraft organization, or
- Equivalent certification? YES NO

PA-1B: Experience or training — has at least six weeks previous experience in a management or supervisory position at a similar aquatic area or has completed additional aquatics management or supervision training from a nationally recognized aquatics organization? YES NO

PA-1C: Age — is at least 21 years old? YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** While having someone with a current certification is essential, having a qualified, experienced individual oversee and administer aquatics programs is even more important. Certification alone does not indicate that an individual has administrative experience in the broader aspects of aquatic management. Different aquatic activities in camp, such as swimming and watercraft activities, may have separate staff persons serving in this function, or one person may be supervising all aquatic areas.

“Additional aquatics management or supervision training” goes beyond lifeguard training and is intended to provide training in facility management and personnel supervision.

The ACA website, [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), should be consulted for information on certifying bodies.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of certification card(s); director/staff description of qualifications.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

**Does not apply if the camp never provides aquatic personnel.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

---

## PA-2 SUPERVISION OF ACTIVITY LEADERS

Does the camp have documentation of regular observations by supervisors to verify that aquatic activity leaders:

- Enforce established safety regulations,
  - Provide appropriate instruction, and
  - Identify and manage environmental and other hazards related to the activity?
- YES NO

**Does not apply if the camp never provides aquatics personnel.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

**INTERPRETATION:** A critical factor to staff effectiveness is appropriate training, followed by supervision and the provision of reinforcement, coaching, correcting, and instruction, as needed. The intent of this standard is that supervisors document their observations of leaders who are conducting aquatic activities with participants. Such documentation may include checklists, copies of performance evaluations, and notes taken by supervisors.

This standard differs from Standard HR-20 in that this requirement deals specifically with documented observation of staff members who are leading aquatic activities with participants. Standard HR-20 addresses the general observation of camper/staff interaction.

"Supervisors" of aquatic activity leaders may have different titles, such as waterfront director, sailing specialist, pool director, lake activity coordinator, etc. These supervisors are responsible for training and overseeing individual aquatic activity leaders or assistants.

"Regular observations" refers to observing the aquatic activity leaders on a schedule determined by the camp, based on factors such as the complexity of the aquatics program, length of season, and background of the aquatics staff.

"Established safety regulations" may include general camp safety regulations detailed in Standard OM-8 and/or those regulations established for a specific activity or areas in Standard PA-5. "Other hazards" may include equipment hazards, such as chlorine leaks, and hazards associated with the physical condition of participants (endurance, tiredness, and cold, etc.). "Management" of hazards may include marking dangerous areas, reminding campers of boundaries, getting equipment repaired, having rest breaks for swimmers, and so forth.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of documentation; visitor observation of randomly selected activities.

**WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**

## PA-3 LOOKOUTS

Does the camp implement policies that require:

- Lookouts be oriented to their responsibilities,
  - Lookouts be required to demonstrate elementary forms of nonswimming rescue?
- YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** The orientation for lookouts should include procedures for enforcement of safety regulations, the role and responsibility of lookouts in assisting with accident and emergency procedures, and expectations for routine aquatics supervision.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Director/staff explanation of procedures being implemented.



**Does not apply when lookouts are not used or if the camp never provides aquatics personnel.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

---

## PA-4 SUPERVISION RATIOS

Does the camp implement written procedures that specify:

PA-4A: Minimum ratios of aquatic-certified persons and lookouts on duty for each type of aquatic activity? YES NO

PA-4B: Ratios for supervision of campers and youth groups that require a minimum of two staff members at all times, at least one of whom is an adult? YES NO

PA-4C: All aquatic-certified persons and lookouts be attentive to their responsibilities at all times and be located in positions from which they can continuously observe and readily assist participants? YES NO

### Applies to:

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

**INTERPRETATION:** Ratios for each activity should be established in accordance with the type of activity, the area, and the characteristics of the participants. Camps may seek the recommendations of authoritative sources. When user groups provide their own aquatics personnel, they must be advised of the camp's aquatic supervision and ratio requirements.

The intent of Standard PA-4B is to ensure that at least two trained persons are available at all times and at least one of the staff members is 18-years old or older. In many situations, only one of these persons needs to be certified, if the second person has been trained to carry out secondary duties (e.g., maintaining surveillance, clearing the area, contacting additional help, etc.) in the event of an emergency situation. "Staff members" in this standard may be from either the camp or the user group.

In Standard PA-4C, "certified persons and lookouts" need to be readily available in guard chairs, on docks, in boats, etc., depending on the activity and the area.

The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* should be consulted for additional information on supervision ratios for aquatic activities.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written ratios and/or written advice to user groups; visitor observation of randomly selected aquatic activities; director/staff description of procedures to provide required coverage.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

## PA-5 SAFETY REGULATIONS

Are safety regulations:

PA-5A: Established in writing by the camp for all aquatic activities?

YES NO

PA-5B: Communicated:

- When the camp provides aquatics personnel – participants are oriented to regulations prior to their participation, and/or
- When user groups provide aquatics personnel – user-group personnel are provided with written regulations with instruction to orient group members prior to their participation?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** Safety regulations should be specific to the aquatic area and activity, and may include those provisions established to meet other standards, such as minimum ratios (Standard PA-4), safety systems (Standard PA-9), lookout responsibilities (Standard PA-3), evaluation and classification of participants (Standard PA-10), and use of PFDs (Standard PA-24). Safety regulations may also include such factors as weather restrictions, pool rules, watercraft rules, navigation rules, diving restrictions, safety signals or commands, warning systems, behavior rules, and nonswimmer restrictions. The use of water-recreation equipment, such as inflatable, floating trampolines and towable sleds may require specific safety regulations.

The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* should be consulted for additional information on safety regulations.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written safety regulations; director/staff description of orientation procedures; visitor observation of written instruction to user groups, when applicable.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

---

## PA-6 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Does the camp have emergency procedures that have been:

PA-6A: Established in writing by the camp for all aquatic activities?

YES NO

PA-6B: Rehearsed or communicated:

- When the camp provides aquatics personnel — camp aquatics personnel periodically rehearse the written procedures, and/or
- When user groups provide aquatics personnel — user-group personnel are provided with written procedures that identify at least:
  - ✓ Features and hazards of aquatic areas available,
  - ✓ Emergency and rescue equipment available,
  - ✓ Location of nearest phone, and
  - ✓ Emergency resource contact information?

YES NO

### Applies to:

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

**INTERPRETATION:** Procedures and rehearsals should be specific to each aquatic area and the activities conducted in a particular area. "Features and hazards" of aquatic areas include such factors as currents, submerged rocks, shallow areas, boundaries of swimming and watercraft areas, and so forth. When user groups provide their own aquatics personnel, camps must have a procedure for informing those responsible for the safety of user groups of the safety procedures and equipment available to them.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written procedures; director/staff description of rehearsals; visitor observation of written information for user groups, when applicable.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



## PA-7 FIRST-AID KITS

Does the camp have a first-aid kit, stocked with emergency supplies appropriate to the location including personal protective equipment, accessible to each aquatic area? YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** The extent of first-aid supplies immediately available to those individuals who will be providing first-aid assistance may depend on the location of additional emergency help and supplies. For example, a first-aid kit at the lake or river may need to be more extensive than one at a pool that is located next to the camp health center. Staff-supervised groups going off-site must be sure to carry appropriate emergency supplies. "Personal protective equipment" to prevent the spread of bloodborne pathogens should include at least a pocket mask or other breathing barrier and disposable gloves.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of first-aid kits at aquatic areas.

**Does not apply if the camp never provides aquatic personnel.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs



---

## PA-8 IMPAIRED MOBILITY PROCEDURES

To protect campers with mobility impairment around bodies of water, including those who use wheelchairs, does the camp have written safety procedures in practice that include:

- Policies that address those occasions when support equipment is removed from persons using a wheelchair. This may include straps, seat belts, trays, or other devices that safely secure the person in the chair.
- On docks, on pool decks, or near any body of water, a specific means of preventing accidental access to the water? YES NO

**Does not apply if the camp never serves persons with any kind of impaired mobility near bodies of water (natural or constructed).**

**Applies to:**

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**
- **User-group programs**

**INTERPRETATION:** The intent of the standard is for the camp to design and implement precautions to protect the safety of all participants, regardless of mobility needs and level of independence. Those occasions when support equipment is removed from persons using a wheelchair would include when they are riding in a small craft, or when there is the possibility of their entering the water. "Preventing accidental access to the water" may be accomplished through a physical barrier around the pool, on the dock, or adjacent to a natural body of water. It may also be achieved through special staff supervision or other appropriate means.

The documented safety practices must be designed for the specific types of mobility impairment of the campers served. These should be included as part of the safety regulations (see Standard PA-5) and given to user groups.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Written safety procedures utilized and instruction to user groups; visitor observation when possible.

### **WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**



## PA-9 SAFETY SYSTEMS

Does the camp require that safety systems to quickly account for all participants be used at all aquatic activities? YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** The "buddy system" is a common example of a tracking or safety system for swimmers. Other systems may be employed to meet this standard. Tag boards and equipment checkout systems may be more appropriate for boating or other aquatic activities. When user groups provide their own supervision for aquatic activities, they must be advised to use safety systems and informed of any equipment available (such as a buddy board) to support the camp's established system.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of randomly selected aquatic activities; director/staff description of the system(s) in use and instruction to user groups.

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

## PA-10 PARTICIPANT CLASSIFICATION

Does the camp implement a system to:

- Evaluate and classify participants' swimming abilities, and
- Assign participants to areas, equipment, facilities, and activities commensurate with their abilities?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** A swim test is not necessarily implied for all activities. Participants may be interviewed and placed in appropriate activities or areas until their actual skills are demonstrated. For example, for short-term recreational swims, procedures may specify that participants must remain in shallow water until they demonstrate their ability to swim a certain distance (i.e., before they are allowed in deeper water). When user groups provide their own aquatics personnel, they must be advised of camp requirements for evaluation and use of equipment.

Even if assignment to the activity presumes a beginner or nonskilled level in swimming for everyone, individuals should still be evaluated to identify any fears or circumstances that could affect their safety.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Director/staff description of evaluation and assignment procedures, and instruction to user groups.

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

---

## PA-11 SWIMMING POOLS

Do camp swimming pool(s) meet the following:

PA-11A: Minimum safety criteria:

- Access to pool is controlled by a fence or other physical barrier,
- Water depths are clearly marked,
- Routine maintenance procedures appear to be in practice to address sanitation and safety concerns, and
- Pool rules are posted in a visible location? YES NO

PA-11B: Rescue equipment is readily available and in good repair?

YES NO

**Does not apply if the camp does not have a swimming pool.**

**Applies to:**

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**
- **User-group programs**

**INTERPRETATION:** "Sanitation and safety concerns" include such factors as appropriate chemical storage, covered drains, nonskid decks, ladders and diving boards in good repair, clear water, and absence of dirt, debris, and algae. Some states require a certified pool operator to manage camp pools. A person with this certification typically has training in pool chemistry, testing, treatment, filtration, maintenance, government requirements, etc.

"Pool rules" may address such directives as no glass in pool area, no running, no diving in shallow end, etc. At a minimum, "rescue equipment" should include reaching devices, rescue tubes, and a backboard that meets the minimum specifications established by rescue and training organizations.

The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* should be consulted for additional information on swimming pools.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of pool area, with posted rules and rescue equipment; staff description of maintenance and sanitation procedures.

**WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**

## PA-12 NATURAL BODIES OF WATER

Do the natural bodies of water used for aquatic activities in the camp meet the following:

PA-12A: Minimum safety criteria:

- Access is controlled to docks, watercraft, and equipment,
- Rules for use of aquatic areas and equipment are posted in a visible location,
- Known hazards are eliminated or activities near them are controlled,
- Facility equipment is regularly checked and maintained, and
- Separate areas are designated for aquatic activities?

YES NO

PA-12B: Rescue equipment is readily available and in good repair?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** Controlling access to bodies of water does not necessarily imply physical barriers, but may also include methods such as education and posting regulations. Access to watercraft and equipment may be more easily controlled with locks and barriers.

"Hazards" in bodies of water at camp, such as drop-offs, currents, and submerged objects, should be eliminated whenever possible or clearly designated with warnings. "Facility equipment" includes items such as docks, ladders, secured rafts, diving boards, etc. A system for safety checks and regular maintenance should be in place for camp equipment.

"Areas for separate activities" (e.g., boating, swimming, waterskiing, fishing, etc.) may be designated by physical markers or made known to campers and staff by education, regulations, or scheduling. Swimming areas should have a clearly defined shallow area for nonswimmers and defined areas for diving, if permitted. Swimming areas for nonswimmers may be defined by ropes, buoys, booms, or deck markings; diving areas may be marked or posted, or designated in regulations. "Rescue equipment" should include items such as backboards, rescue tubes, reaching devices, or designated rescue crafts, as appropriate to the activity.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of aquatic areas with posted rules; director/staff description of procedures in use.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

**Does not apply if the camp does not have a natural body of water.**

**Applies to:**

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**
- **User-group programs**

---

## PA-13 AQUATIC SITES AWAY FROM CAMP

Does the camp have written policies in practice for the use of pools, waterparks, or natural bodies of water away from camp that require:

PA-13A: The following conditions be met:

- Campers and staff are oriented to rules and boundaries,
- Trained staff assess water and weather conditions to identify possible hazards and determine appropriate activities,
- Camper access is limited, as appropriate, and
- Facility and equipment appear to be in good repair?

YES NO

PA-13B: Rescue equipment is readily available and in good repair?

YES NO

PA-13C: Camp staff accompanying campers are trained on their supervisory roles and responsibilities?

YES NO

**Does not apply if the camp never takes campers to aquatic sites away from camp.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs

**INTERPRETATION:** Camp staff are responsible for instructing or guarding aquatic activities at pools, beaches, lakes, and rivers, and for general camper supervision, according to the written policies and procedures established by the camp. Rules, boundaries, schedules, responsibilities, communication, etc., should be reviewed with all persons prior to participation.

Trained staff must evaluate possible hazards in pools and other bodies of water and limit access and activities as appropriate. Such hazards include waves, rip tides, currents, lightning, and winds.

"Controlling access" may involve such approaches as education and scheduling. For example, at a public beach, the camp may want to designate specific times for camp participants to be in the water.

"Facility and equipment" include structures and apparatus such as docks, ladders, secured rafts, diving boards, watercraft, PFDs, etc. Camp staff may need to limit activities if the equipment is in obvious disrepair. "Rescue equipment" should include items such as backboards, rescue tubes, reaching devices, or designated rescue crafts, as appropriate to the activity.

Written procedures for the supervision of campers at aquatic sites away from camp need to clarify camp staff responsibilities for such factors as location, behavior management, communication, and health-related matters. Responsibilities of staff will vary, depending on location, type of activity, and clientele.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written policies/procedures; director/staff description of areas and procedures in use; staff explanation of training and supervision

**WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**

## SWIMMING

The provisions in this subsection of Program Aquatics apply to recreational and instructional activities, such as aquatic exercise, diving, surfing, snorkeling, skin diving, and water slides, as well as swimming. All swimming activities in camp, whether staffed by the camp or staffed by user groups, and all swimming activities away from the camp that are staffed by the camp are scored in Standards PA-14 through PA-19. If *NO* swimming activities occur, or if camps use *ONLY* staffed public facilities for swimming, Standards PA-14 through PA-19 *DO NOT APPLY*.



## PA-14 SWIM LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION

**MANDATORY  
(ALL)**

To guard each swimming activity, does the camp provide, or is each user group advised in writing to provide, a person who has current certification as a lifeguard by a nationally recognized certifying body?

YES NO

### Applies to:

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

**INTERPRETATION:** This standard applies to both instructional and recreational swimming activities. Staff use of aquatic facilities during their free time is covered in Standard PA-16. SCUBA activities are scored in Standard PA-18. This standard applies to all situations where the camp provides aquatic personnel. Camps must be aware of the 2005 U.S. Department of Labor ruling that lifeguards 15-years old or younger cannot guard at natural bodies of water.

This standard applies to nonstaffed public facilities (e.g., hotel pools, state park beaches, etc). In such situations, camps should use their own staff who must meet the requirements of this standard.

The ACA website, [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), should be consulted for information on certifying bodies for lifeguards.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of certification cards, documentation, and/or written instructions to user groups; director/staff description of implementation; visitor observation of randomly selected swimming activities.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



## PA-15 SWIM LIFEGUARD SKILLS

## MANDATORY (ALL)

Does the camp have written documentation that every camp lifeguard has demonstrated skill in rescue and emergency procedures specific to the aquatic area and activities guarded? YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** These skills must be verified and documented by the camp aquatics supervisor. The intent of this standard is to help assure that lifeguards can execute the skills represented by the certification that they hold, and to be sure that they have the appropriate training and skills to perform rescues in the type of water/location (e.g., pool, lake, ocean, river, whitewater, etc.) and type of activities being guarded. In some cases, additional certification may be required, as in surf or whitewater conditions. Skills of the aquatic supervisor may be evaluated by his/her supervisor or another currently certified lifeguard. When lifeguards are trained at the camp facility, the camp should have the lifeguard trainer demonstrate competency in the skills essential for that particular campsite. When lifeguards are NOT trained at the camp facility, the camp should have the lifeguards demonstrate competency in the skills essential for that particular campsite.

The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* should be consulted for lifeguard skills and rescue verification checklist.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of completed skill checklists/verification documents specific to the aquatic area and activities guarded; and/or written instructions to user groups; director/staff description of skill verification process.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



**Does not apply if the camp only serves user groups who provide their own lifeguards.**

#### **Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

## PA-16 STAFF SWIMMING

**MANDATORY  
(ALL)**

For camp STAFF use of swimming facilities, does the camp implement a written policy that requires certified lifeguards be present at all times, and do procedures specify when guards or lookouts must be out of the water?

YES NO

**Does not apply if the camp's swimming facilities are never available for staff use.**

**Applies to:**

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**
- **User-group programs**

**INTERPRETATION:** Camp policy may state no staff use during times when regular activities and guards are not scheduled. Factors such as age, type of facility, size of group, time of day, and regular aquatic schedule should be considered.

Staff use of swimming facilities is primarily a seasonal staff concern. The standard is not intended to regulate use of aquatic facilities by year-round resident site staff and their families, who swim at times not connected to camp programming. Leaders or staff with user groups are considered part of the group, as such, and are subject to the requirements for groups (see Standards PA-14, PA-15).

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written policy; director/staff description of procedures.

### **WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**



## PA-17 FIRST AID/CPR

## MANDATORY (PA-17B)

Does the camp require, or advise user groups in writing to provide, a staff member to be on duty and accessible at each separate swimming location (e.g., pool, lake, river) who has:

PA-17A: Certification from a nationally recognized provider in first aid, including training on bloodborne pathogens? YES NO

PA-17B: Certification from a nationally recognized provider in age-appropriate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that includes the use of breathing devices (e.g., pocket masks)? YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** The certified staff member may be from the camp or the user group. Camps must advise user groups of this requirement in the contract with them or by other written instructional means.

Certification dates should be verified for currency, since CPR must be renewed every one or two years and most first-aid and aquatics certifications are valid for three years. For nonmedical religious camps, a person meeting the qualifications specified in writing by the religious program to meet emergency situations must be on duty and accessible.

The ACA website, [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), should be consulted for additional information on certifying bodies for first aid and CPR.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of certification card(s); observation of written instruction to user groups.

### Applies to:

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



---

## PA-18 SCUBA DIVING ACTIVITIES

**MANDATORY  
(ALL)**

Whenever SCUBA diving occurs, does the camp provide, or are user groups advised in writing to provide:

- For any SCUBA activities involving noncertified divers, an adult with a current SCUBA Instructor rating from a nationally recognized certifying body, and
- For SCUBA activities in which ALL participants are dive-certified, an adult with at least a current Divemaster certification from a nationally recognized certifying body?

YES NO

**Does not apply if SCUBA diving does not occur.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

**INTERPRETATION:** Because supervision and rescue skills required for SCUBA diving activities are specialized and different than those for other aquatic activities, the certifications for the supervising adult must be appropriate to the activity. The ACA website, [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), should be consulted for additional information on certifying bodies for SCUBA diving.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of certification card(s); observation of written instruction to user groups.

### **WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**



## PA-19 SWIMMING LESSONS

For all instructional swimming activities, does the camp provide or are user groups advised in writing to provide:

PA-19A: A swim instructor with certification from a nationally recognized certifying body or equivalent certification? YES NO

PA-19B: A lifeguard or lookout who is out of the water continuously watching over the activity if the instructor is in the water with participants? YES NO

PA-19C: Noncertified instructional assistants who function under the direct supervision of a certified instructor, follow the specific directions of that instructor, and have demonstrated elementary rescue skills? YES NO

**Does not apply if swimming lessons are not provided.**

**PA-19C does not apply if noncertified instructional assistants are not used.**

**INTERPRETATION:** A swimming instructor does not necessarily have to be certified as a lifeguard. Accordingly, if the instructor is not also a lifeguard, an additional certified lifeguard is necessary to maintain compliance with mandatory Standard PA-14. If the instructor in the water is also a lifeguard, a lookout may be used. "Noncertified instructional assistants" are teaching assistants without current instructor certification who are under the immediate supervision and direction of the certified instructor.

The ACA website, [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), should be consulted for additional information on certifying bodies for lifeguards.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of certification cards; director/staff description of procedures; observation of written instruction to user groups; visitor observation of swimming lessons.

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



---

## WATERCRAFT ACTIVITIES

Watercraft activities include all use of small craft (e.g., canoes, sailboats, rowboats, kayaks, rafts, paddleboats, personal watercraft, motorboats, and fishing boats). These activities also include boardsailing, tubing, waterskiing, rafting, etc. However, bumper boats are not included as watercraft activities and should be scored as a specialized activity.

All watercraft activities in camp, staffed either by the camp or by user groups, and all watercraft activities away from camp that are staffed by the camp are scored in Standards PA-20 through PA-29. If *NO* watercraft activities occur, or if the camp uses *ONLY* staffed public facilities or providers for watercraft activities, Standards PA-20 through PA-29 *DO NOT APPLY*.



## PA-20 WATERCRAFT GUARD CERTIFICATION

## MANDATORY (ALL)

To guard each watercraft activity for day and resident camp programs and for youth groups, does the camp provide, or is the user group advised in writing to provide, a person who holds one of the following:

- Current instructor rating in the appropriate craft from a nationally recognized certifying body, or
- Current lifeguard training from a nationally recognized certifying body, or
- Other acceptable certification or license?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** All boating activities in day and resident camps must have an appropriately certified person on duty with rescue skills commensurate with the activity and the aquatic location. Because most lifeguard training courses are pool-based, camps must be certain staff also have appropriate boating training and rescue skills (see Standard PA-21).

"Current" means within the period of time designated for the certification or licensure by the certifying body. "Other acceptable certification or license" includes certifications and licenses accepted by ACA to meet the certification requirements of this standard. For example, persons certified in whitewater rescue are deemed to have acceptable certification for those activities that take place on whitewater. The ACA website, [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), should be consulted for additional information on certifying bodies for watercraft guards.

Youth groups include youth-user groups, as well as short-term residential programs provided by camp for youth. User groups should be advised in contracts or other written instructions of appropriate certification requirements for aquatic personnel.

This standard also applies to nonstaffed public facilities. In these situations, the camp staff accompanying the campers must meet the requirements of this standard.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of certification cards/licenses and/or written instruction to user groups; visitor observation of randomly selected watercraft activities.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

#### Applies to:

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**
- **User-group programs**

---

## PA-21 WATERCRAFT RESCUE SKILLS

**MANDATORY  
(ALL)**

Does the camp have written documentation that every camp watercraft guard has demonstrated skill in water rescue and emergency procedures specific to the type of water and activities being conducted?  
YES NO

**Must be scored for all day and resident camps and youth user groups.**

**Does not apply only if the camp serves all-adult or family user groups only.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

**INTERPRETATION:** “Documented skills and training” in water rescue and emergency procedures refers to the ability to execute rescue skills in the location of the activity (e.g. lake, ocean, river, etc.) and specific to the watercraft being supervised. Because certification courses to meet lifeguard requirements sometimes do not include rescue and emergency training specific to the craft and location of a particular campsite, camps may need to provide or arrange for additional skills training.

The ACA website, [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), should be consulted for additional information on certifying bodies that offer training courses appropriate to the requirements imposed by this standard. The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* should be consulted for watercraft rescue skills verification checklist.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written documentation of skills and training for specific location and watercraft.

### **WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**



## PA-22 WATERCRAFT SAFETY FOR STAFF, ALL-ADULT GROUPS, FAMILIES

**MANDATORY  
(ALL)**

For staff, all-adult groups, and families with parent(s) present and supervising use of watercraft, does the camp have written evidence that participants are:

- Supervised by certified personnel (see Standard PA-20), or
- Instructed to implement written procedures that specify:
  - ✓ PFDs be worn by all persons at all times,
  - ✓ Safety regulations be followed, and
  - ✓ A designated checkout system is utilized?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** This standard requires that the procedures in either the first or the second bulleted option are followed. “Staff use of watercraft” is primarily a seasonal staff concern. The standard is not intended to regulate use of watercraft by year-round resident site staff and their families whose use occurs at times not connected to camp programming. “All-adult group” means every member of the group participating in the activity is at least 18 years of age. “Family group” refers to the fact that the parent or guardian is supervising his or her own children. When other people’s children are involved, Standard PA-20 must be met.

The purpose of the checkout system is to assure that a responsible staff person is aware of whether any staff on their time off, adult members of a group, or families are utilizing watercraft. Accordingly, that staff person should check to see that all persons are accounted for after the activity. The checkout system may identify the participants, the equipment in use, the approximate area of use, and the time of return.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written policies; director/staff explanation of implementation.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

**Does not apply to day and resident campers and youth groups.**

**Does not apply if watercraft are never available for use by staff, all-adult groups, or families.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

---

## PA-23 FIRST AID/CPR

## MANDATORY (PA-23B)

Does the camp provide, or advise user groups in writing to provide, a staff member to be on duty and accessible at each separate boating location (e.g., lake, river) who has:

PA-23A: Certification from a nationally recognized provider in first aid, including training on bloodborne pathogens? YES NO

PA-23B: Certification from a nationally recognized provider in age-appropriate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that includes the use of breathing devices (e.g., pocket masks)? YES NO

### Applies to:

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

**INTERPRETATION:** The certified staff member may be from the camp or the user group. Camps must advise user groups of this requirement in their contract with them or through other written instruction. Certification dates should be verified for currency, since CPR must be renewed every one or two years, and most first-aid and aquatics certifications are valid for three years.

For nonmedical religious camps, a person meeting the qualifications specified in writing by the religious program to meet emergency situations must be on duty and accessible.

The ACA website, [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org), should be consulted for additional information on certifying bodies for first aid and CPR.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of certification cards; written instructions to user groups.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



## PA-24 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs) MANDATORY (ALL)

Does the camp implement a policy that PFDs that are safe for use be worn by all persons in watercraft activities? YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** The standard applies to all participants in watercraft activities and to staff driving boats of any kind up to 26 feet in length. This standard *DOES NOT APPLY* to staff lifeguarding from a watercraft.

PFDs are to be worn by campers and staff in all types of small craft, such as canoes, kayaks, rowboats, sail boats, sailboards, ski boats, water skiing, etc. PFDs must be appropriate for the type of water and the activity.

“Safe for use” means that PFDs are: Coast Guard approved; of proper type, size, and fit for each user; sufficiently buoyant to support designated weight; and in serviceable condition (clasps, zippers, etc., are in working condition).

PFDs must be worn on all watercraft under 26 feet in length. For crafts over 26 feet in length, regulations that are applicable, as determined by regulating organizations governing the body of water in use, should be followed. Local regulations may also mandate use of PFDs for certain types of watercraft or by individuals of certain ages. When user groups provide their own aquatics personnel, they must be advised of camp policies on the use of PFDs.

One exception to this standard exists. Because PFDs interfere with correct technique of crew-shell rowing, competitive crew shells are exempt from this standard if the following conditions are met: a motorized safety craft carrying enough PFDs for all participants is within close proximity to the shell at all times; and if a non-swimmer is aboard a crew shell, he or she must wear a PFD.

The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* website links should be consulted for additional information on PFDs.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of PFD use in randomly selected watercraft activities; director/staff description of procedures and their implementation.

**Does not apply if watercraft activities never occur.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

---

## PA-25 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

**Does not apply if personal watercraft are never used.**

**Applies to:**

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**
- **User-group programs**

Does the camp prohibit personal watercraft use by anyone under the age of 16? <div>YES NO</div>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**INTERPRETATION:** The use of personal watercraft in camps for other than rescue operations should be evaluated in light of environmental concerns, local regulations that may restrict their use, and recommendations of watercraft manufacturers and watercraft law administrators.

Camps that choose to utilize personal watercraft for programming should be familiar with safety studies and should adhere to the recommendations of watercraft manufacturers and safety groups, such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Age restrictions are required because young campers generally do not have the physical size and coordination to operate such craft safely, according to manufacturers. In addition, young campers may not have the experience and judgment necessary to operate a motorized craft. User groups must be advised of the camp's policies on personal watercraft use.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Director/staff description of policy and implementation; visitor observation of watercraft use.

## PA-26 WATERCRAFT ACTIVITY ORIENTATION

Does the camp have procedures that specify that all persons using watercraft be provided the following training prior to use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Boarding and debarking, trimming, and movement on the craft,</li><li>▪ The use of PFDs, and</li><li>▪ Self-rescue in case of capsize or swamping?</li></ul> <div>YES NO</div>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Applies to:**

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**
- **User-group programs**

**INTERPRETATION:** This standard applies to the use of all watercraft, including sailboats, rowboats, canoes, sailboards, and rafts, as well as motorized boats by camp staff, campers, and other participants. Training may be provided by camp staff or user-group leaders. Training in the use of PFDs may include floating in PFDs to test fit and acquaint participants with the buoyancy they provide, if the participants' physical condition and/or water conditions permit. Training in self-rescue may include an actual "tip test" for appropriate craft, where conditions permit.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of randomly selected watercraft activities when possible; director/staff description of training procedures or instructions to user groups.

## PA-27 WATERCRAFT INSTRUCTION

Does the camp provide or is the user group advised in writing to provide a staff person to conduct watercraft instruction who has the following qualifications:

PA-27A: Instructor rating in the appropriate craft (e.g., canoeing, sailing, rowing) from a nationally recognized certifying body OR documentation of experience indicating knowledge and skill in teaching and supervision specific to the watercraft activities conducted? YES NO

PA-27B: Instructor rating in the activity from a nationally recognized certifying body in the aquatic activity (e.g., waterskiing) OR documented experience indicating specific knowledge and skill in teaching the activity? YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** The intent of this standard is to provide appropriate instructor-level supervision for boating lessons. If this person is not also qualified to “guard” the activity, camps will need a second individual to maintain compliance with Standard PA-20. The level of skill and experience required of the instructor will vary with the aquatic area and type of activity being conducted. For example, supervising rowing on a shallow pond does not require the same level of expertise as instructing waterskiing on a large lake.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of certification cards or other documentation of training and experience, or of written instruction to user groups.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



**Does not apply if watercraft instruction is not offered.**

**PA-27A does not apply if canoeing, sailing, and rowing instructional activities are not conducted.**

**PA-27B does not apply if other aquatic activities, such as waterskiing, boardsailing, jet skiing, etc., are not conducted.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

---

## PA-28    **MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT TRAINING**

Does the camp have written evidence that all operators and drivers are provided training prior to their use of motorboats and personal watercraft that includes:

PA-28A: Procedures for:

- Orientation to federal, state, and local watercraft laws, including speed restrictions, operator age, and carriage requirements,
- Familiarization with common “rules of the road” and boater courtesy,
- Safely loading and unloading passengers, including downed skiers, if applicable,
- Dealing with mechanical failure, and
- Refueling? YES   NO

PA-28B: On-the-water training in the specific type of watercraft to be used which includes:

- Use of throttle, shift, and steering, and
- Securing the craft at pier, dock, or mooring? YES   NO

**Does not apply if motorized boats or personal watercraft are never used.**

**Applies to:**

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**
- **User-group programs**

**INTERPRETATION:** “Motorized boats” includes ski boats, safety boats, personal watercraft, outboards, etc. “Carriage requirements” vary according to state and local regulations, as well as the size of the vessel. Some requirements may include minimum numbers of PFDs, bells or whistles, visual distress signals, and fire extinguishers that must be on board.

While the level or amount of training has not been specified by the standard, the intent is to provide boat-specific training even for individuals who may have experience operating motorized boats. It is particularly important for drivers to be oriented to site-specific speed limits and no-wake zones.

Training may be provided by camp staff or user-group leaders. Training records are required for camp-use motorized boats; written policies are required for user groups, if the camp is not providing supervision.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of training records for camp staff and campers or written policy for user groups.

**WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED**

## PA-29 WATERCRAFT MAINTENANCE

Does the camp have written evidence of regular maintenance and safety checks for watercraft, including as applicable:

PA-29A: A schedule for reviewing the condition of canoes, rowboats, kayaks, sailboards, sailboats, rafts, and other nonmotorized watercraft, and YES NO

PA-29B: Written evidence of regular checks and maintenance of ski boats, personal watercraft (jet skis), powered sailboats, bumper boats, and other motorized watercraft? YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** The procedures and schedule for maintenance should be established by the camp and will vary according to the type of equipment, use, and other factors specific to the camp. Reviewing the condition of nonmotorized watercraft must include additional equipment, such as paddles and sails. "Written evidence" of regular checks and maintenance on motorized watercraft may include maintenance logs, safety checklists, written procedures that specify when and who has responsibility for maintaining and checking equipment, etc.

The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* should be consulted for additional information on sample checklists for watercraft maintenance.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written procedures, checklists, or logs; visitor observation of watercraft; director/staff description of procedures.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED



**PA-29A does not apply if no nonmotorized watercraft and equipment are provided by the camp.**

**PA-29B does not apply if no motorized watercraft and equipment are provided by the camp.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

---

## STAFFED PUBLIC FACILITIES OR PROVIDERS

The provisions in this subsection of the Program Aquatics standards apply to all swimming and boating activities at staffed public aquatic facilities and sites away from camp, including public pools and waterparks, lakes and rivers, and ocean sites. Standards PA-30 through PA-36 include vendors providing equipment, staff, and access to an aquatic site, such as a whitewater guiding company. Persons other than camp staff are responsible for the site, equipment, and supervision of the activity. Staff may accompany a group and may assist in the supervision of campers, but are not responsible for supervision of the activity. The standards in this subsection also include the use of another camp's staffed facility. If a camp *NEVER* uses staffed public facilities, Standards PA-30 through PA-36 *DO NOT APPLY*.



## PA-30 PUBLIC PROVIDERS OF SWIMMING

Does the camp implement a written policy to use only staffed public swimming facilities or providers who have persons on duty who have:

PA-30A: Lifeguarding certification (as in Standard PA-14)? YES NO

PA-30B: Certification in first aid and CPR (as in Standard PA-17)?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** This standard applies to all swimming activities at staffed public facilities, whether instructional or recreational. The camp must have assurances that the qualifications required by this standard are met. Such assurances may be in a letter from the facility manager, advertised personnel requirements for guard positions, or local laws or regulations. If the camp is using a nonstaffed public facility, such as an unguarded motel pool or wilderness lake, Standard PA-14 must be scored.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written policy; director explanation of verification of guard qualifications.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

## MANDATORY (ALL)

**Does not apply if the camp never uses staffed public facilities for swimming.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs

## PA-31 PUBLIC PROVIDERS OF BOATING

Does the camp implement a written policy to use only staffed public facilities for watercraft activities who have persons on duty who hold:

PA-31A: Appropriate watercraft certification (as in Standard PA-20)?

YES NO

PA-31B: Certification in first aid and CPR (as in Standard PA-23)?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** This standard applies to all watercraft activities at staffed public facilities, whether instructional or recreational. The camp must have assurances that the qualifications required by this standard are met. Such assurances may be in a letter from the facility manager, advertised personnel requirements for guard or guide positions, or local laws or regulations. If the camp is using a nonstaffed public facility, Standard PA-20 must be scored.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written policy; director explanation of verification of guard or supervisor qualifications.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

## MANDATORY (ALL)

**Does not apply if the camp never uses staffed public facilities or provides for watercraft activities.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs

---

## PA-32 PFDs OFF-SITE OR AT PUBLIC AQUATIC FACILITIES

## MANDATORY (ALL)

Does the camp implement a policy that PFDs that are safe for use be worn by all persons in watercraft activities? YES NO

**Does not apply if watercraft activities are not provided.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs
- User-group programs

**INTERPRETATION:** PFDs are to be worn by all campers and staff in all types of small craft, such as canoes, kayaks, rowboats, sail boats, ski boats, and water skiing, on sailboards used for water skiing, etc. PFDs must be appropriate for the type of water and the activity.

"Safe for use" means that life jackets are: Coast Guard approved; of proper type, size, and fit for each user; sufficiently buoyant to support designated weight; and in serviceable condition (i.e., clasps, zippers, etc., are in working condition).

PFDs must be worn on all watercraft under 26 feet in length. For crafts over 26 feet in length, regulations that are applicable, as determined by regulating organizations governing the body of water in use, should be followed. Local regulations may also mandate use of PFDs for certain types of watercraft or for individuals of certain ages. The *ACA Accreditation Standards Resource CD-ROM* website links should be consulted for additional information on PFDs.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Director/staff description of procedures and implementation; visitor observation of PFD's use when possible.

## PA-33 WATERCRAFT ACTIVITY ORIENTATION WITH PUBLIC FACILITIES OR PROVIDERS

**Does not apply if watercraft activities are not provided.**

**Applies to:**

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs

Does the camp have procedures that specify that all persons using watercraft be provided the following training prior to use:

- Boarding and debarking, trimming, and movement on the craft,
- The use of PFDs, and
- Self-rescue in case of capsizing or swamping?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** This standard applies to the use of all watercraft, including sailboats, rowboats, canoes, sailboards, rafts, and motorized boats. Training in self-rescue may include an actual "tip test" for appropriate craft, where conditions permit.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Director/staff description of training procedures; visitor observation of randomly selected watercraft activities.

## PA-34 AQUATIC SITES

Does the camp implement procedures for the use of public pools or natural bodies of water that require:

PA-34A: The following conditions be met:

- Campers and staff are oriented to rules and boundaries,
- Trained staff assess water and weather conditions to identify potential hazards and determine appropriate activities,
- Camper access is limited, as appropriate,
- Facility and equipment appear to be in good repair?

YES NO

PA-34B: Rescue equipment is readily available and in good repair?

YES NO

**INTERPRETATION:** Rules, boundaries, schedules, responsibilities, communication, etc., should be reviewed with all persons prior to participation. Trained personnel must evaluate possible hazards in pools and other bodies of water and limit access and activities, as appropriate. Such hazards include waves, rip tides, currents, lightning, and winds.

"Controlling access" may involve such approaches as education and scheduling. For example, at a public beach, the camp may want to designate specific times for camp participants to be in the water.

"Facility and equipment" include structures and apparatus such as docks, ladders, secured rafts, diving boards, watercraft, life jackets, etc. Camp staff may need to limit activities if equipment is in obvious disrepair. "Rescue equipment" should include items such as backboards, rescue tubes, reaching devices, or designated rescue crafts, as appropriate to the activity.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Director/staff description of areas used and procedures in use; visitor observation of aquatic areas when possible.

**Applies to:**

- **Day camps**
- **Resident camps**
- **Short-term resident programs**

---

## PA-35 CAMPER SUPERVISION AT PUBLIC AQUATIC FACILITIES

Does the camp require staff accompanying campers to public aquatic facilities be trained on written procedures that specify their supervisory roles and responsibilities? YES NO

### Applies to:

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs

**INTERPRETATION:** Written procedures for staff supervision of campers at aquatic sites away from camp need to clarify responsibilities for such factors as location, behavior management, communication, and health-related matters. The responsibilities of staff will vary, depending on the location, type of trip, clientele, and staff available at the aquatic facility or contracted service.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Visitor observation of written camp procedures; director/staff explanation of training and supervision practices.

### WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

## PA-36 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AT STAFFED PUBLIC AQUATIC FACILITIES

Does the camp prohibit personal watercraft use by anyone under the age of 16? YES NO

**Does not apply if personal watercraft are never used.**

### Applies to:

- Day camps
- Resident camps
- Short-term resident programs

**INTERPRETATION:** Camps that choose to utilize personal watercraft for programming should be familiar with safety studies and strictly adhere to the recommendations of watercraft manufacturers and safety groups, such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Age restrictions are required because young campers generally do not have the physical size and coordination to operate such craft safely, according to manufacturers. In addition, young campers may not have the experience and judgment necessary to operate a motorized craft.

**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION:** Director/staff description of policy and implementation.